Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 080800Z DEC 73 FM USINT BAGHDAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 674 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL BAGHDAD 651

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, IZ, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN VIEW OF IRAQ'S PALESTINE POLICY

- 1. JORDANIAN CHARGE AL-AWRAM RIDICULES IRAQI POLICY TOWARD SETTLEMENT AND PALESTINIANS AND CLAIMS IT CHANGING EVERY DAY. MAIN BASIS FOR POLICY IS, IN HIS VIEW, REGIME'S FEAR OF SADATFEISAL ALLIANCE AND IRAQ'S PRETENTIONS TO ARAB LEADERSHIP. THIS HAS LED IRAQ TO TAKE RADICAL STANCE AGAINST SETTLEMENT, MAINTAIN TROOPS ALONG SYRIAN BORDER, AND URGE PALESTINIAN GROUPS TO REFUSE SETTLEMENT AND MAKE IRAQ THEIR BASE CAMP.
- 2. ON LATTER POINT, AWRAM SAID ARAFAT HAD REFUSED, SAYING IF PLO SET UP HDQS IN IRAQ IT WOULD SOON WITHER AWAY. AMRAN THOUGHT HAWATMEH WOULD BE WILLING TO GO ALONG FOR PERSONAL GAIN. RANK AND FILE PALESTINIANS INCREASINGLY DISILLUSIONED WITH IRAQ AND OF SOME 400 PALESTINIANS HERE, AWRAM SAID, ABOUT 200 HAVE RETURNED TO JORDAN SINCE KING HUSSEIN ANNOUNCED AMNESTY. MOST OF THEM ALREADY HAD JORDANIAN PASSPORTS.
- 3. CHARGE ALSO CLAIMED KLM HIJACKING HAD BEEN DIRECTED FROM BAGHDAD, BUT HE OFFERED NO EVIDENCE.

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4. AWRAM DOES NOT RULE OUT DISRUPTIVE IRAQI EFFORTS

THROUGH PALESTINIANS SUCH AS HIJACKINGS AND SABOTAGE, BUT HE BELITTLED IRAQ'S CAPABILITY TO INFLUENCE COURSE OF EVENTS.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WELL INFORMED, AWRAM'S ASSESSMENTS ARE COLORED BY HIS VERY LOW OPINION OF BAATH REGIME AND PERHAPS SOME DEGREE OF WISHFUL THINKING. LOWRIE

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